AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method for transmitting a message from a first phone to a cell phone utilizing a central radio pool/traffic router, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a voice signal from the first phone at a switch, the voice signal intended for the cell phone;

passing the voice signal from the switch to a radio;

modulating the voice signal at the radio onto a radio channel to produce a modulated voice signal;

feeding the modulated voice signal to an RF interconnect switch;

passing the modulated voice signal from the RF interconnect switch to an RF combiner/splitter;

combining by the RF combiner/splitter the radio channel with other radio channels used by other calls to form a composite RF signal;

passing the composite RF signal to an optical modulator/demodulator;

modulating an optical carrier by the optical modulator/demodulator using the composite RF signal, thereby translating the composite frequencies to optical frequencies;

sending the modulated optical carrier to a base station over an optical fiber link;

demodulating the optical carrier to produce a composite RF signal; and

transmitting the composite RF signal from the base station to the cell phone.

24. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 23, the method further comprising the step of, prior to passing the voice signal from the switch to the radio, selecting the radio by a program running in a processor.

25. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 24, wherein the processor can select any of a plurality of available radios.

26. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 24, wherein the selection is independent of the terminating cell carrying the call.

27. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 24, wherein the processor can instruct any of a plurality of radios to tune to any of the plurality of available radio channels.

28. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 23, wherein the resulting composite RF signal comprises both digital and analog traffic.

29. (Original) A method for transmitting a message in accordance with claim 23, wherein radio channel spacing is preserved when the composite RF signal is modulated onto the optical carrier.

30-61. (Cancelled)